

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,994 to Wolven et al. ("Wolven") taken alone. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolven taken alone.

The Examiner opines that Wolven shows a method for transferring information between multiple buyers and multiple vendors including the use of a first database for storing information regarding a plurality of products. In response to a request for a portion of the information, the Examiner alleges that Wolven shows that the information is posted to a *second database* and access is provided to subsets of the second database to a plurality of subscribers.

The system of Wolven is a three-way interface between an individual, the provider of goods and the database manager. The database of Wolven is a master database with information with personal characteristics of the individual, not the product characteristics from the vendor as in present Claims 1 and 3. As such Wolven lacks a second database. While Wolven hints at inventory software (col. 7, lines 7-10) it is clearly not contemplated to be a part of the system and is not shown as being accessible by the system or the buyers as in the present invention.

In Wolven, the personal characteristics are transmitted to a provider computer. In contrast, the present invention uses product information to maintain an inventory in a second database associated with the first database, both of which are controlled by the system and accessible by both the vendors and the buyers.

In Wolven, the provider ascertains if it has products which meet the personal characteristics criteria. In contrast, the present invention permits a vendor to inspect the inventory of any permitted buyer and also permits any buyer to inspect the inventory of any permitted vendors by polling the system according to predetermined permissions. In this manner, the present invention is a centralized inventory management system which permits unique and beneficial access of both vendors and buyers to a pool of information related to a dynamic inventory of products.

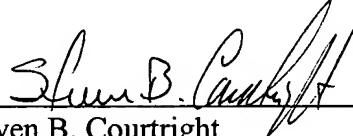
Since Wolven lacks the teaching or suggestion to provide at least the above elements, it cannot render obvious current Claim 1, Claim 3 and the claims which depend therefrom (Claims 2, and 4-20).

New dependent claims have been added to recite more specificities of the invention. Because the independent claims should be allowed, the dependent claims should be allowed.

The applicants request reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance of all claims. A Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the case, the Applicants request that the Examiner please contact Applicants' attorney at (312) 673-0360.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven B. Courtright", is written over a horizontal line.

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September 4, 2003

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